Volume 19 No. 5 September 2008

TRUTH ABOUT POWER IS SPOKEN HERE
WIP
WORKS IN PROGRESS

WORKS IN PROGRESS

ESTABLISHED IN 1990 BY THE THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

Tear it down!

SIGNATURE DEADLINE LOOMS FOR INITIATIVE TO UNMAKE THE REZONING MISTAKE

by Janet Blanding

Jerry Reilly is the temporary chair of the Olympia Capitol Park Foundation. This newly organized group has begun to gather signatures on an Initiative Petition that may eventually lead to the creation of a new park on the isthmus between Capitol Lake and Budd Inlet. If established, this park would require the demolition of the Capitol Center building, sometimes referred to as the "mistake by the lake." The Initiative petition requires the City Council to undertake a feasibility analysis to investigate the acquisition and development of a part of the Capitol Lake-Budd Inlet Isthmus as a public park. The proposed park would not include the Bayview Market, the Yacht Club, or the Oyster House restaurant.

Jerry Reilly speaks with an Olympia voter about the rezone. (Photo by Janet Blanding)

WORKS IN PROGRESS: Isn't this the first initiative at the city level in Olympia?

JERRY REILLY: No. I've lived here since 1981, and it's the first one I had known of, and the city clerk did not know of any, either. But I have since learned that there was a least one other initiative. It was back in 1955 when the City Commission wanted to log off the Watershed. Citizens put together an initiative ordinance to prevent that, and apparently while the initiative was pending, the City Council was proceeding toward logging the area.

The Supreme Court of Washington in *Shamley v. City of Olympia* enjoined the city from taking action during the pendency of the initiative. It's an interesting parallel, and as it turned out, the initiative did pass eventually, and the watershed was changed to a park. I hadn't known about this until an old-timer wrote me an email, and I looked it up in Wikipedia and found out there was a court case. In those days, Olympia had a commission form of government, so the rules were slightly different. Initiatives required signatures of 25% of the people who voted in the last mayoral election.

Now we need 15% of all the people who were registered at the last general election, whether they voted or not. So we need around 4000 signatures.

Can you give us an overview of the initiative process?

The City of Olympia has a very helpful link on their website about initiatives, so we started there, then we looked at the state statutes, and talked to some people in Lakewood who have an initiative on the ballot there regarding casino gambling. The power of initiative is fairly limited—it can't be used to affect city budget decisions, and it can't be used to affect comprehensive plan amendments. That's outside of the scope of what you can do by initiative.

What you can do by initiative is affect general legislative policy of the city. We think that by initiative we can ask the city to seriously analyze the option of use of the isthmus as a park. It's necessary to follow the prescribed format that's in the state statute, and draft it as if it's a city ordinance. We have a preamble and the two operative sections. Signatures have to appear in a specific format, and there has to be a warning on the petition. When we've gathered sufficient signatures or believe we have, it's turned in to the city clerk.

The clerk then goes to the county auditor and requests verification of the names on the petition.

If the auditor says we have sufficient names, we're past step one. If we're short, then we have ten days to pick up additional signatures. Once we've met the threshold, it's back in the city's lap. Once they have a validated petition, they have a choice. They have 20 days in which to simply pass it, or they may decide to put it to a vote of the people. If they put it to a vote, the city attorney prepares a summary of less than 200 words saying what the initiative does, then the stakeholders get a chance to discuss that, but assuming everybody agrees and is happy with the description, it goes to the county auditor, and the auditor schedules an election. It has to be to the county auditor by Dec. 12. Our goal is to have as many signatures as possible by mid-September [when the City Council holds its hearing on the rezone]. We don't need to complete the process until the end of October, legally, but obviously the sooner the better.

> [An initiative was used] back in 1955 when the City Commission wanted to log off the Watershed. Citizens put together an initiative ordinance to prevent that.

So the City has a choice as to whether they just pass it or put it to a vote?

Yes. But they can buy a lot of a feasibility study for the cost of a special election. According to the County auditor, a special election would cost about $100,000.

If the initiative passes, and the proposed amendment passes as well, what happens? Can the City Council proceed with the rezone if the initiative passes?

The initiative does nothing to the rezone process directly, but will affect the atmosphere in which the City Council is making this consideration. If we have 4000 people in Olympia expressing the sentiment that the council ought to take a serious look at using the isthmus for a park, moving in another direction doesn't seem logical, but this initiative does not preclude them from doing that. It can't directly affect the comprehensive plan amendment.

So is the initiative process more political than legal, then?

No. A mere petition is political, with a lot of people expressing a sentiment. The initiative forces the city to make a legal choice: either do the park feasibility study on their own, or pass it on to the voters. It becomes a legal dilemma that the city then has to deal with.

Are you hopeful of getting enough signatures in time?

Absolutely. There are two kinds of hopeful, there's hopeful by mid-September, and there's hopeful by the end of October. It will be difficult to do by mid-September, logistically, but I think we may have a substantial number by then. This weekend [Aug. 23-24] the Olympia Capitol Park Foundation, as well as the Friends of the Waterfront, the League of Women Voters, and People for a Participatory City will be collecting signatures at various locations. We're also gearing up to do precinct by precinct doorbelling. Many people I did not know before are sending emails asking how they can help. [Ed. note: As of 8/28/08, over 1,000 signatures had been gathered.]

How can our readers sign the initiative petition if they haven't actually encountered a canvasser with a clipboard? Is the petition available online?

Yes. There is a download of the petition available at www.olycapitolparkfoundation.org. People can download it, copy it double-sided, then simply sign it, maybe get some friends to sign it or sign it just by yourself, then send it to me. You can't email it to me, it has to be mailed or dropped off. The address is right on the form.

Some people have argued that the mixed use high-end buildings Triway wants to build on the isthmus would improve Olympia's tax base, and a park would not. How do you think making that area into a park would affect Olympia's economy?

We think the view corridor from and to the Capitol, from the Capitol from the Law Enforcement Memorial, out over Capitol Lake and Budd Inlet and on up to the Olympics

▸ **REILLY** continued on page 6

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a free, volunteer-operated progressive community newspaper based in Olympia, Washington. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of *Works In Progress* and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions
Please send text as Word attachments. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, *it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)*

Send submissions to *olywip@gmail.com* or mail to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

Governing Tool
The following statement is part of the Editorial Policy and is the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause:

WIP *will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by* WIP *to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but* WIP *reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

Mission Statement
"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. *Works In Progress* is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause
We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

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On the cover: The City Council exerts its moral authority on an important issue.

WIP Schedule

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ANNOUNCEMENTS/EVENTS

Olympia Movement for Justice & Peace (OMJP) Yard Sale

Saturday, Aug. 30, 9 am–6 pm, 902 Division Street NW, Olympia (Right on the #41 busline)

Support OMJP and get some great stuff at great prices at the same time. Last minute donations are fine, but no junk! If there's rain: Saturday, Aug. 6

POWER Outage: Labor Day Picnic at Kennydell Park

Monday, Sept. 1, Labor Day, Beach Picnic at Kennydell Park at Black Lake

Bring the whole family, a potluck dish, swimsuit and beach toys! We have the shelter closest to the lake. We'll carpool from the POWER office at 5 pm if you want a ride.

Directions: Take Highway 101 off I-5. Exit onto Black Lake Boulevard southbound. Proceed approximately 2 miles, then turn left onto the Black Lake-Belmore Road. Follow the Black Lake-Belmore Road approximately 2 miles. Turn right onto 66th. At the sharp curve to the left, 66th will become known as Fairview Road. Kenneydell County Park entrance is 600 feet after the curve on the right.

Contact: POWER at 701 Franklin Street SE Olympia, WA 98501, 360-352-9716 toll free 866-343-9716 welfarerights@riseup.net, http://www.oly-wa.us/power/ or http://www.myspace.com/parentsorganizing

POWER is an organization of low-income parents and allies advocating for a strong social safety net while working toward a world where children and care giving are truly valued, and the devastation of poverty has been eradicated

Repeal the Nuclear Ordinance?! Not in our lifetime!

Tuesday, Sept. 9, Olympia City Hall (900 Plum St. SE), 7 pm (but show up earlier to sign up for speaking)

Despite a packed house, impassioned speakers and a magnificent, beautiful coalition of community members, our strident creation of the Nuclear-Free Zone Ordinance from 2005 is under threat of repeal.

Come to City Hall for the City Council Meeting and speak out against this repeal threat! See next page for more details. The timing of this. in the midst of the aggressive rezoning ploy, cannot be underestimated. Refuse to let this sly repeal slide under the table.

Also, there will be a planning meeting at Traditions Cafe (600 Columbia St. SW) to do long-term planning for if the ordinance is repealed and what to do during the City Hall meeting. That will be on Sept.3 at 8:30 pm so far but check for time, place or date revisions.

You can also send letters now to the city council via email at citycouncil@ci.olympia.wa.us.

Olympia Family Barter Faire: Creating a Local Economy

Join us for the second annual Olympia Family Barter Faire in nearby Matlock at a lovely organic farm, Sept. 12-14. The Olympia Family Barter Faire is a family-friendly, weekend event connecting local skills, food, and passions with our local community. Our goal is to bring together local and regional vendors in a family style gathering to barter crafts, produce, cuisine, skills, and collections of stuff. In addition to bartering, there will be camping and daytime visitors, singing, dancing, music, conversation, and many volunteer opportunities.

The Olympia Family Barter Faire is being created to build community, support a local economy, provide educational opportunities through workshops and skill shares, promote the arts, and work towards local sustainability. Our events will encompass values that reflect a respect for diversity and the vision of a socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable society. We are seeking volunteers for this wonderful event! Spread the word, bring your friends, help us create a sustainable community for all! Contact us at www.oly-wa.us/olybarter or call 866-1489 or jsquared277@mac.com for more information.

City Council Rezone Hearing

Tuesday, Sept. 16, doors open at 5 pm
Washington Center, 512 Washington St

Members of the community will have a chance to address the city council regarding the proposed amendment to the Comprehensive Plan which would raise building height limits on the isthmus between Budd Bay and Capitol Lake to 90 feet. An additional hearing will be conducted on Sunday, September 21, beginning at 3 pm, also at the Washington Center, if necessary. The council promises to allow everyone who is present by 7 pm a chance to speak. Unlike the Planning Commission hearing, where pro and con speakers were taken randomly, giving pro-rezone speakers the floor more than half the time despite the fact that three-quarters of the audience opposed the rezone, this hearing will rely on a random drawing for speaker selection. Please come and share your vision for Olympia's future with the City Council!

Vegan cooking demo and zine reading with Joshua Ploeg

Saturday, Sep 6, 2008, 2:00 – 6 pm, Olympia Timberland Library, 313 8th Avenue SE, Olympia

Traveling vegan chef, food writer, musician and zinester Joshua Ploeg (*joshuaploeg.blogspot.com*), aka "Joshua Plague," will demonstrate vegan cooking techniques, talk about his travels, and read from his work. Joshua sang for hardcore bands Behead the Prophet and the Mukilteo Fairies, has published several cookbooks and zines, and worked as a food columnist. Local zinesters Chelsea Baker, Zach Mandeville, and Nicki Sabalu will read their work following Joshua. If you're curious about independent publishing or vegan cooking, please join us @ the Olympia Timberland Library!

Arlington Northwest Memorial Display and Vigil

Sunday, Sep 7, 8 am to 7 pm
Heritage Park, downtown Olympia, 5th & Water St

Join our local Veterans for Peace Rachel Corrie Chapter in presenting to the community a reminder of the cost of war. We will present grave markers Arlington Cemetery style for each US military person killed in the Iraq war. There will be an opening ceremony, midday speakers, a continuous vigil and a closing ceremony. War should never be back page news and it is with this sentiment that the Arlington Northwest Memorial was created.

If you wish to help set up this even please contact Jim James at 360-480-5957 or visit our website for updates: http://www.vfp109cc.org

Olympia City Council Meeting to vote on repeal of the Nuclear Free Zone Ordinance

Tuesday, Sep 9, 7 pm to 9 pm

Please attend this City Council meeting and have your say. The vote to repeal from the governance committee came after city staff told the committee that out of all the correspondence the city has received on the issue since January 1, 2004 through August 26, 2008, 216 people favored the ordinance, 38 opposed it, and 28 had no opinion. In order words, despite the fact that 76% of the people who weighed in on the issue favored the ordinance, the committee voted to repeal it. It's a slap in the face to the hundreds of Olympians that educated the community, attended the public hearings, and voiced support for the ordinance. Please attend the City Council meeting and address this issue during the Public Communications period at the beginning of the meeting. (***See next page for related article***)

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Bringing back the nukes

by TJ Johnson

On Aug. 26, the Olympia City Council General Government Committee (Jeff Kingsbury, Rhenda Strub, Craig Ottavelli) voted unanimously to repeal the city's Nuclear Free Zone Ordinance. The recommendation to repeal will come before the Olympia City Council at 7 pm, Sept. 9.

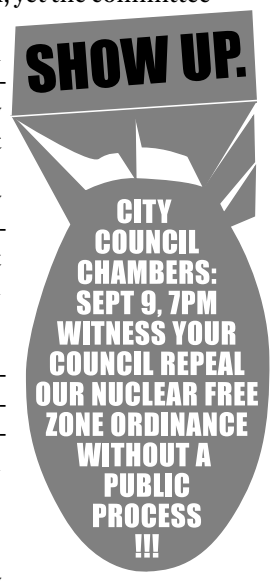
The vote came after city staff told the committee that out of all of the correspondence the city has received on the issue since Jan. 1, 2004 through today, 216 people favored the ordinance, 38 opposed it, and 28 had no opinion. Despite the fact that 76% of the people who weighed in on the issue favored the ordinance, the committee voted to repeal it.

City staff also reported that they had done research to determine whether the contracting provisions of the ordinance were a burden for city staff, and whether any potential contractors had refused to sign contracts because of the nuclear-free provision. They found that the contract language was *not* a burden on city staff, and that only one potential contractor (a local carpenter) had refused to sign and decided he did not want to work for the city. In other words, the ordinance has no significant administrative burden, yet the committee voted to repeal it.

Responding to a question from Ottavelli, City Attorney Tom Morrill said that he does *not* believe the ordinance poses any additional risk or liability to the City. Yet the committee voted to repeal it.

In other words, there is no legitimate reason to repeal the ordinance. Yet the committee voted to repeal it anyway.

While there were numerous ludicrous comments offered by the committee as they made the case for repeal ("all vets oppose the ordinance," and "we don't live in a democracy") one of the most outlandish came from Rhenda Strub, who said that taking stands on important issues reduces the council's moral authority. Huh? What good is moral authority if it's not used to advance important issues?


SHOW UP.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS: SEPT 9, 7PM WITNESS YOUR COUNCIL REPEAL OUR NUCLEAR FREE ZONE ORDINANCE WITHOUT A PUBLIC PROCESS !!!

MAH WANTS TO FLEX HIS MAYORAL MUSCLE. SHOW UP.
OTTAVELLI'S "DATA" IS NOT SUPPORTED BY CITY RECORDS. SHOW UP.
STRUB SAYS "WE LIVE IN A REPUBLIC, NOT A DEMOCRACY." SHOW UP.
KINGSBURY WANTS TO"REPRESENT" YOU, NOT LISTEN TO YOU. SHOW UP.

It's very clear that the decision to overturn the ordinance is pure politics and is designed to appease a small minority—especially the cabal that runs *The Olympian*, who seem to be setting the city's agenda these days. Meanwhile, it's a slap in the face to the hundreds of Olympians that educated the community, attended the public hearings, and voiced support for the ordinance.

So, where do we go from here?

There will be a meeting at Traditions next Wednesday, Sept. 3 at 8:30 pm to consider our options. Ideas being considered include a massive turnout at the City Council meeting on Sept. 9, a citizen's initiative for a tough, enforceable ordinance, and various creative means of free "expression."

In the meantime, there are several things you can do:

1) Contact the city council at citycouncil@ci.olympia.wa.us and tell them how you feel

2) Send a letter to the editor of *The Olympian* expressing your support

3) Send information to your friends and sympathetic organizations locally, statewide, nationally and internationally and ask them to contact the city council

Basic math indicates that we have an uphill fight. At least five of the seven council members will probably vote to repeal the ordinance unless we can change their minds. But we must try. To let this slide through without opposition will be yet another blow to Olympia's rapidly eroding reputation as a community that embraces civic participation, democracy, sustainability and peace.

TJ Johnson is a former City Council member who voted to support the ordinance back in 2005 and travelled to Japan for educational purposes regarding nuclear weapons.

Freedom Bridge liberated!

Reflections on Fort Militarization Resistance in Tacoma

by Patty Imani

As the US occupation of Iraq continues into its sixth year, the USS Brittin, carrying war machinery with the 4th Stryker Combat Brigade, landed at the Port of Tacoma on July 29. Emergency meetings were called in Seattle, Tacoma and Olympia. Activists from the region soon converged in Tacoma to strategically resist the movement of the equipment as it rolled from the Port to Fort Lewis. This war machinery is destined for repair, where needed, and will then be used in training exercises before it deploys back to Iraq.

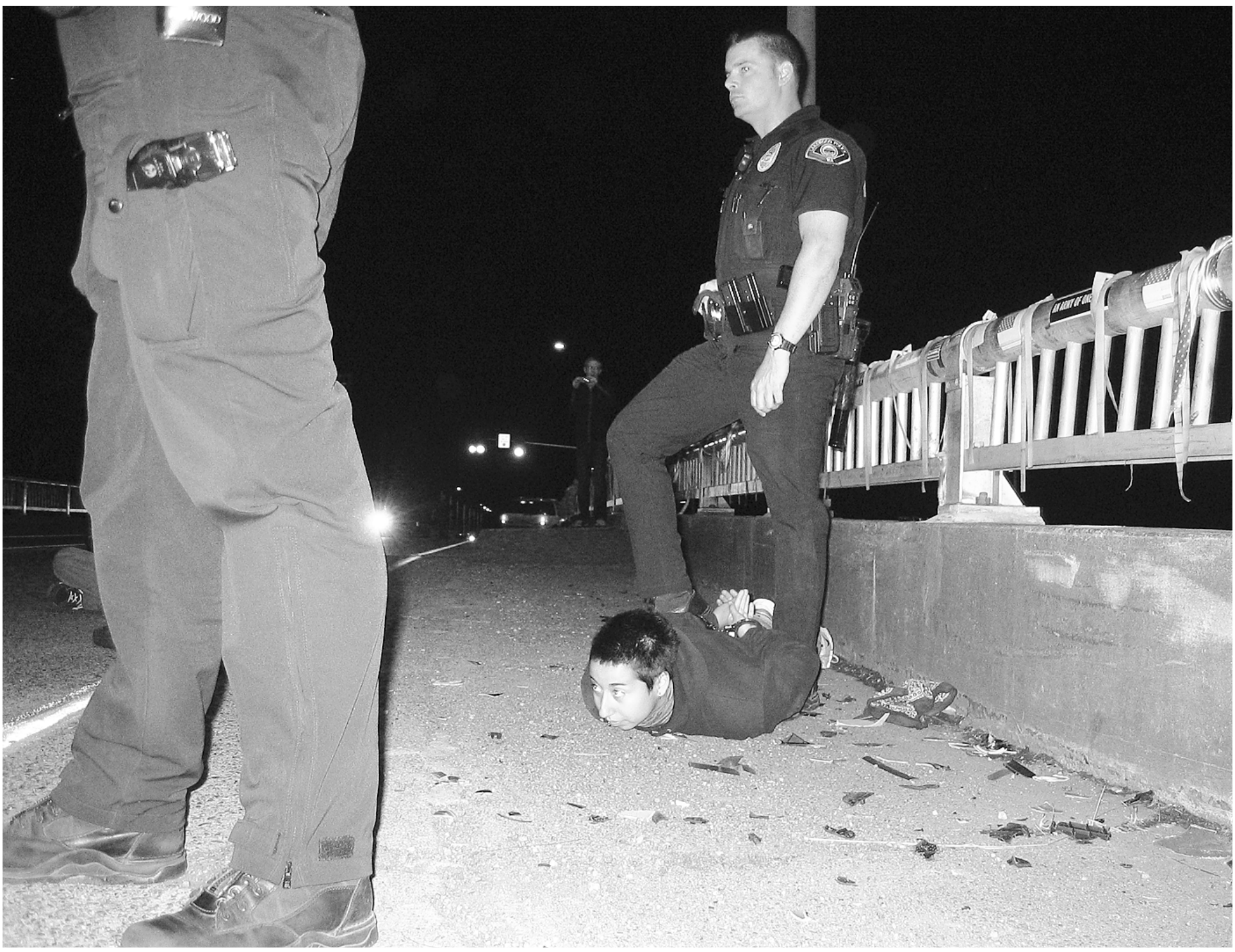
The occupation is illegal under international treaties. Principles of the Nuremberg Tribunal clearly states that all who are complicit in carrying out a crime against peace, a war crime, or a crime against humanity are criminal under international law. Those who cooperate in the planning to carry out a war of aggression are accountable for these crimes.

As our public ports have chosen to cooperate with the government by contracting to ship war machinery used in the illegal invasion and occupation of Iraq, the Ports are guilty of Crimes against Peace. As ports are a public entity, the people are ultimately accountable for Port entities' actions; that is, the people are ultimately responsible for choosing to comply or not comply. Those who participate in port militarization resistance efforts refuse to be complicit. This has been stated clearly with the first communiqué prepared by those doing port militarization resistance in May, 2006 at the Port of Olympia. Since that time, direct action through port militarization resistance has grown regionally, to include actions in three regional ports, and actions have expanded to include resistance of war machinery both as the machinery deploys from Fort Lewis to Iraq, and as it deploys from Iraq to Fort Lewis.

Where it's recognized that the aggressive invasion and occupation of sovereign nations is an international crime, it holds that all people are accountable for resisting the actions of a rogue government. Under these conditions, protest is not simply a constitutional right, but an obligation. Where representatives refuse to represent, and where international law demands accountability, we are obligated to resist.

It should be clear by now that this resistance is not only supportive of the Iraqi peoples—but it is supportive of the troops. I do not want the enlisted soldiers to die, I don't want them—or their families—to suffer the

▸ **REFLECTIONS** continued on page 8



"Freedom Bridge" isn't free. (Photo by Bethel Prescott—*No derivatives, Creative Commons)*

Ninety-nine reasons not to rezone

OBJECTIONS TO THE URBAN WATERFRONT REZONE AND HEIGHT AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

by WIP News Service

1. The community doesn't want it. Written comments submitted to the Planning Commission and City Council have been running approximately four to one against the rezone.

2. Most of the supporters of the rezone seem to be financially motivated: About one-third of written comments to the Council and Planning Commission in favor of the rezone were from people in the construction business and another third were from downtown merchants and business owners.

3. Beautiful views of Budd Inlet, the Olympics, and the Capitol dome will be blocked by massive, tall buildings. These views, envisioned in 1911 by the designers of the original Capitol Campus, are historically and culturally significant, and enhance the experience of visiting Washington's Capitol City.

4. The rezone is highly divisive. The amount of public opposition demonstrates that the proposed measure is not acceptable to the community.

5. The space is much more suitable for a park. The formation of the Olympia Capitol Park Foundation, which has launched an initiative campaign to require the city to conduct a feasibility study of purchasing most of the land on the isthmus and turning it into a park, has made this a reasonable possibility.

6. Olympia needs affordable downtown housing. Units which cost 800K to 1.2 million dollars are not affordable housing.

7. A piecemeal approach to rezoning a waterfront area is inappropriate when both the Shoreline Management Act and the city's Comprehensive Plan are being updated.

8. Because of the tax break given to new housing construction downtown, this project would not improve Olympia's tax base substantially for eight years. At the same time, it will be a drain on city resources.

9. Middle and working class taxpayers would essentially be subsidizing services for the wealthy condo owners who move into the proposed Larida Passage.

10. The development project may raise property values, which could raise rents and displace current downtown residents and downtown businesses which will no longer be able to afford the rent on downtown storefronts. One of the greatest things about downtown Olympia is that ordinary people, not huge corporations, can afford to open one-of-a-kind businesses there.

11. Tri-way's development project will further contribute to gentrification.

12. Gentrification may lead to the further criminalization of homelessness.

13. Olympia already has a famed and vibrant downtown culture. This culture is both an export and an attraction. The condos will degrade this unique downtown lifestyle, if not render it extinct altogether.

14. The project will take away what are now community spaces and make them only for those who can afford to live and shop at the new development.

15. The community wants more community spaces and parks, not less.

16. The city's traffic study shows that 141 units of housing and retail space on the isthmus will increase traffic 20% during peak hours. This area is a major thoroughfare between the Westside and downtown, already subject to congestion due to its bottleneck configuration.

17. This development is not consistent with the city's Comprehensive Plan, which states that "tomorrow's higher density must also be accompanied by improved amenities for urban life." This project would actually decrease amenities for the whole community.

18. The rezone may be in violation of the Shoreline Management Act, which states that "the interest of all the people shall be paramount in the management of shorelines of statewide significance."

Because the rezone is of dubious legality in several respects, if it passes, the city could become embroiled in costly litigation.

19. The proposed amendment violates Olympia Municipal Code in several ways, most notably in that rezones should not be "materially detrimental to uses or properties in the immediate vicinity."

20. The proposed project will block views protected by the comprehensive plan.

21. Because the rezone is of dubious legality in several respects, if it passes, the city could become embroiled in costly litigation.

22. Resultant litigation would squander the city's resources in a time of economic downturn, when the preservation of jobs and the maintenance of social services and other public services is more important than ever.

23. The developer's representative's assertion that this project will only affect 1% of the view is intellectually bankrupt. Putting aside questions about the possibility of quantifying aesthetic values, consider how the views are already affected by the Capitol Center Building (the "mistake"). Larida Passage would be considerably larger. One percent? Your cognitive account is overdrawn.

24. Luxury condos are not the sort of housing Olympia needs. According to Pat Tassoni, of the Thurston County Tenants Union, "In terms of city and regional planning to accommodate housing needs, what's most needed are not more upper/middle income units, but low-income units. Rich people have the choice of where they want to live already—from which city, parts of cities, in the country somewhere. They have choices. The vacancy rate for their mortgage and rental value is the highest subset of the composite number. Where it's a zero vacancy rate is for those at 30% of the area median income. They have no choice of where to live—they have to go wherever a unit is available, including sometimes to other cities."

25. Many Olympians consider the isthmus to be "the heart of Olympia," a sacred space. In *A Pattern Language* , an influential book written by six architects about urban design, the authors stress the importance of maintaining sacred sites: "People cannot maintain their spiritual roots and their connections to the past if the physical world they live in does not also sustain these roots... it essential that these specific sites be preserved and made important."

26. Claims that this project will benefit the environment are dubious, relying heavily on generalizations about the value of high density housing, which could also be applied to projects in more suitable locations and at prices more appropriate to Olympia. Building on the isthmus will not stop global warming.

27. Despite the claims of the developer, this rezone would do little to encourage walking, biking and bus use.

28. Many condos may be bought by out-of-towners who work elsewhere and commute, thus increasing Olympia's carbon footprint.

29. The isthmus area is already vulnerable to flooding, and will almost certainly become increasingly more so as ocean levels rise. The City is currently studying how downtown Olympia will be impacted by rising sea levels.

30. City residents should not be expected to pay for flood mitigation for wealthy condo owners.

31. Condos would constitute yet another barrier to restoring the area to estuary. The salmon currently are weakened by the abrupt change of salt water to fresh water. (This is why they linger at the entrance to Capitol Lake; they are attempting to adjust to the change in water salinity.) The salmon are out of luck if the condos get built; wealthy property owners on the isthmus do not want a view of a swamp.

32. The popular salmon viewing bridge on 5th Avenue near the old Kentucky Fried Chicken may no longer be accessible; even if it is, the views will be degraded.

33. The site of the proposed developments consists of unstable fill that used to be underwater. Building massive buildings on fill in an area due for an earthquake is dangerous and potentially very expensive to the public. (Some people may not realize just how big the building will be, because drawings circulated by Triway picture them next to three-story high street lights.)

34. Triway has a poor environmental record; a number of the Cooper Crest development homeowners are unhappy with the way that environmentally sensitive area was developed, and Triway's subsequent lack of response to their concerns.

35. Triway Enterprises may engage in a "bait and switch" maneuver with the city, promising housing in order to get the rezone, then proceeding with another project, or selling the land soon after the rezone makes it more valuable. The City's own staff recommendation reflects this suspicion; it stipulates that a development agreement be included to address project specifics. However, even Olympia's senior planner acknowledges that "There are no guarantees with that process."

36. Triway Enterprises and its principal, Tri Vo, have an extensive record of litigation.

37. Downtown Olympia does not need "revitalizing." Downtown is not in trouble. Diverse groups of businesses, including retail businesses, are thriving there. Stores close, but new stores open. Just in the last two years a number of new businesses have opened in downtown Olympia: Citi Lights, Aqua Via, Einmaleins, Blue Lotus, Inside Vintage, Cherry Street Roastery, The Royal, Gravity Beer Market. And there's a creperie on the way.

38. Gentrification jeopardizes Oly's unique character. As stated by downtown resident, Tovah Rudawski, "Gentrification is routinely successful in removing the cultural souls of cities, and the cultural soul we have here in Olympia, that 'funky little downtown' that we hear and read about so much, is one of the last of its kind."

39. If people want to shop and dine in a comfortably monotonous, bourgeois environment, why don't they just go to West Olympia? Or Lacey? Or Tumwater? Unless you already live downtown, you don't have to drive far to find a Denny's.

40. The supply-side economics argument that many proponents of the project rely on to assert that this project will benefit the entire community has not lived up to its promises in the past. Or, in the words of Kevin Laird of People for a Participatory City, "Trickledown is bullshit."

41. The retail spaces of Larida Passage would compete with existing downtown businesses. In fact, the proposed project would provide more retail space than it would shoppers; the commercial space created would include roughly 47,000 square feet of retail. The 141 housing units, if actually sold to people who would occupy them, would create approximately 250 shoppers.

42. It is unlikely that many locally owned businesses will be able to afford the high rents of Larida Passage, bringing in soulless chain stores and restaurants which will siphon revenue from locally owned enterprises which may already be struggling. If

We can do better! Bonnie Jacobs with a better vision for the isthmus. (Photo by Janet Blanding)

property values go up, only chain stores can afford downtown. According to *A Pattern Language*, individually owned shops are beneficial to the community, whereas insipid franchises and chain stores are not. "When shops are too large, or controlled by absentee owners, they become plastic, bland and abstract." Sounds like Lacey.

43. It isn't clear that Triway's project will be a financial success—city staff's assessed the demand for this kind of housing as "relatively shallow" in the draft Environmental Impact Statement

44. Only 19 single family homes between $800,000 and $1.2 million and five condos priced between $474K and $625K sold in all of Thurston County last year.

45. Similar condos with beautiful views of Capitol Lake are sitting empty on the courthouse hill.

46. The national housing market is depressed; federal bailouts notwithstanding many millionaires are already foreclosing on their second and third homes. Why would they buy new condos now?

47. Similar luxury waterfront condos in Bremerton have sold so poorly that they have been offered up for auction at vastly reduced prices

48. Many of the condos may be bought by lobbyists, who will inhabit them for only a few months out of the year.

49. If these units sit vacant, little money will be contributed to the community.

50. Close to 90 percent of downtown is already zoned for mixed-use housing and shopping. Why not develop there if housing/mixed use is the goal?

51. If downtown is in need of revitalizing, why not redevelop any of the dozens of empty buildings on 4th avenue?

52. The proposed condominiums are aggressively outside of Olympia's design aesthetic.

53. The size bumps up too much—the massive size of the proposed condos doesn't work aesthetically in that location. There is essentially zero height on Budd Inlet, Capitol Lake and the bridges. To jump immediately to 90 foot buildings would be visually displeasing.

54. A lot of anger will be generated among citizens when they are forced to subsidize housing for millionaires while cutting city spending on essential services, and losing access to public amenities.

55. Citizens of Olympia have fiercely resisted similar proposals repeatedly. Aren't our representatives listening?

56. The downtown we live in and use presently is not the kind of environment that appeals to potential condo owners. This means that either they won't buy condos downtown, or downtown will have to be replaced with something more palatable.

57. The condos will create a massive cold dark canyon through the first few blocks of downtown.

58. There has been significant public investment in Heritage Park – it is for the public, not the delectation of millionaires. It should not be degraded by this project.

59. Larida Passage or other developments may displace local establishment Traditions Cafe.

60. There is a perception, whether accurate or not, that there may been collusion between the city council and Triway Enterprises...secret deals, campaign contributions, hiring of former councilmembers, etc. This, along with the council's willingness to go along with the wishes of rich developers over the objections of the public, damages the public's trust in elected representatives.

61. Shoreline Master Program revisions should not be done in a piecemeal fashion; the Friends of the Waterfront has been calling for a comprehensive visioning process for years. No changes should be made to the Shoreline Master Program before this community-wide visioning process has occurred.

62. Triway should be applying for a substantial shoreline development permit for this project, not just a rezone.

63. Altering the comp plan whenever any builder wants to put up a project sets a bad precedent, and encourages endless piecemeal fights about zoning like this one.

64. It's poor urban and community planning. The authors of *A Pattern Language* recommend limiting the majority of buildings in dense urban areas to no more than four stories. "High buildings have no genuine advantages, except in speculative gains for banks and landowners....high-rise living takes people away from the ground, and away from the casual, everyday society that occurs on the sidewalks and streets and on the gardens and porches. It leaves them alone in their apartments."

65. Another giant construction project, taking even longer than the bridge, will be another big step toward getting people on the West side of town out of the habit of coming downtown to shop and out of the habit of driving through the city rather than around it on the freeway.

66. The ability of the public to view the salmon swimming from Budd Bay into Capitol Lake will be impaired by construction in this area, and the salmon themselves may be adversely affected by the construction.

67. According to Jerry Reilly of the Olympia Capitol Park Foundation [see interview, page 1] preserving the most important natural treasure of Olympia is beneficial to the financial stability of the city. "As we become more and more intensively developed throughout the country, these magnificent sites are becoming more rare and more valuable."

68. Once the area is rezoned, the value of the property will jump immediately, making eventual public acquisition that much more difficult.

69. Once there are valuable buildings in the area, the possibility of razing them to return the area to a public space is made impractical.

70. Multiple owners (as in condominiums) makes public acquisition substantially more challenging.

71. Now is the time to transform the area into a park, when the many of the structures on the isthmus are vacant and decrepit. (The proposed park would not include the land now occupied by Bayview Thriftway, the Yacht Club or the Oyster House.)

72. Once the best public views in the city are turned into private property it will become harder and harder to justify not giving up what's left, because it isn't that special anyway

73. One problem about developing downtown is that no one knows where the front row of buildings facing the waterfront will end up. No one wants to put up a building with views if they can't have any confidence that the city means what it says when it sets waterfront height limits. Bumping this area from 35 to 90 feet in the face of deep opposition would strongly suggest that the rules might be changed to allow new building in front of anybody's view project.

74. Over and over, we hear pro-rezone people complaining that 90% of the housing downtown is subsidized and residents are too poor to spend money there. Pat Tassoni of the Thurston County Tenants Union calls this misleading. "There are different definitions (at least three) of what constitutes 'downtown'. It would be 90% if downtown is defined as the Farmers Market to Sylvester Park and the water to Franklin Street. It would not be 90% of downtown according to the comprehensive plan definition, which is Eastside Street to the water, the freeway/capitol campus to the Port. Actually, using the comp plan definition, only about 20% of downtown housing is subsidized."

75. The subsidized housing which is the subject of complaint accommodates seniors and the disabled, community members who should be valued, not disdained. Tassoni also comments: "The SHAG [Senior Housing Assistance Group by the Farmers Market] and *The Olympian* are both low-income senior/disabled housing to make those numbers. Do pro-rezone people feel there are too many old people downtown already and what we need is more middle agers? Because we know they don't want youth there!"

Local residents observe salmon on the isthmus. More fun then watching millionaires spawn.

Downtown Olympia does not need "revitalizing." Downtown is not in trouble. Diverse groups of businesses, including retail businesses, are thriving there.

76. Public mistrust of the rezone process has arisen, due to underhanded tactics in trying to create the illusion of public support for the project via astroturfers Oly2012 and internet sockpuppets, as well as the question of improprieties with respect to local news and editorial coverage of the rezone.

77. Some Council Members risk the appearance of a conflict of interest on this issue given the substantial support that their campaigns received from the developer.

78. Rezoning would send a clear message that the city council listens to and supports the needs of developers over the needs of citizens, thus damaging their future political aspirations.

79. Government is supposed to protect the public interest against special/private interests. This rezone promotes private interests at public expense.

80. City Council members are going to be in a terrible position politically if they decide to go ahead and approve the rezone over the wishes of what clearly seems to be a large majority of the city, then they get sued because it turns out that the rezone's illegal under the state's laws protecting the public's interest in our shorelines. They will have squandered all that political capital for nothing.

81. Another possibility is that after the city council allows the rezone, Triway Enterprises will be unable to finance the project in a softening housing market. Property values on the isthmus will jump as soon as the area is rezoned, however, and a park will be much more difficult to finance. If the City Council acts unwisely, Olympia could end up with decrepit old buildings on the isthmus for another decade.

82. *The Olympian* opinion page has acted like a paid public relations agent for the rezone, but even the "news" about the rezone and proposed project has not demonstrated objectivity, often quoting from market studies and economic impact studies commissioned by Triway – how objective can we expect those studies to be?

83. Communications to the Planning Commission, including a letter from the State Department of Archaeology and Historical Preservation were not forwarded properly. At that time of the Commission's deliberations on July 21, they had not received 5% of the public communications regarding the amendment they recommended to the City Council.

84. The council would suffer citizen backlash over the construction fall-out at the isthmus area that could extend two or more years.

85. Given the geological fragility of the isthmus, it is likely that there will be many construction challenges in constructing massive buildings there.

86. In order to build on fill, there will have to be huge pilings put in the ground – people downtown will have to listen to the sound of pile drivers for a long while. The noise pollution will be considerable for a few years, worse than if construction was happening in a more geologically stable area. The salmon will probably find the noise irritating, as well.

87. Construction of the project would be extremely disruptive to traffic in an important traffic conduit which is already subject to congestion. Two years of construction will cut Olympia's Westside off from downtown, just as it did during the recent bridge construction. That hurts downtown merchants' pocketbooks.

88. The isthmus isn't significant just to Olympia residents, but others as well. This area is enjoyed by many people who visit the Washington State Capitol.

89. All living former governors and first ladies signed a proclamation opposing the rezone, calling the view, "a treasured legacy for our citizens."

90. The new Heritage Center on the Capitol Campus has been specifically designed to take advantage of views which will be seriously degraded by 7 story buildings on the isthmus.

91. The Capitol Campus Design Advisory Committee and many state legislators oppose this project, which degrades the beauty of the Capitol Campus. Going ahead with this development jeopardizes our legislative relationships

92. After decades of cooperative, give and take with the state government, this city council is squandering that good will, which may affect all Olympians in the future.

93. Pedestrian crossings on 4th and 5th avenue are already overtaxed and dangerous in this bottleneck area. The addition of 141 units of housing, will increase pedestrian as well as vehicular traffic. In addition, the constant crossing of pedestrians will further slow traffic in the area. The city's traffic analysis did not take the increase in pedestrian traffic into account.

94. Rezoning does not guarantee anything worthwhile will actually be built. We may end up with a hole in the ground if the developer's financing falls through, a prospect which is increasingly likely as the housing market and economy continue to slump.

95. It is questionable whether Triway truly has respect for the will of the community and Olympia's political process, i.e. his statement to the Sitting Duck that "In my country, this would be done in a week."

96. We shouldn't give into blackmail, i.e., Triway's lawyer threatening at the Planning Commission hearing to build a three-story office building on the site if it is not rezoned.

97. The design review process does not offer much opportunity for public input. The time to act is now, to stop the rezone.

98. Heritage Park and Capitol Lake are enhanced by the openness and natural light in the area; high rise buildings would darken the atmosphere and the character of this public resource.

99. According to *A Pattern Language*, access to water is also an important planning consideration: "People have a fundamental yearning for great bodies of water... the land immediately along the water's edge must be preserved for common use."

Special thanks to Kevin Laird, Thad Curtz, Bonnie Jacobs, Kris Goddard, Pat Tassoni, Sue Lean, Rachel Newman, Bob Jacobs, KTeeO, Tovah Rudawski, Bert Whitlock, Emily Ray, Phoebe Blanding, Jerry Reilly, People for a Participatory City, Friends of the Waterfront, Olympia 20/20 and others for help in compiling this list.

Greeners react to Evergreen compliance of privacy abuse

As reported in the July 2008 Works In Progress*, The Evergreen State College, was served with subpoenas for student records that included a 90 day nondisclosure clause as part of a Thurston County criminal investigation. The College chose to honor the subpoenas and the nondisclosure clause and engaged in no internal discussion about challenging these subpoenas or the nondisclosure clause in any way, raising questions about the College's commitment to student privacy.*

By Necashaw Montgomery

After the Dead Prez incidents on Feb 14, which led to the vandalism of four police cars on Evergreen campus, confidential student information was released to law enforcement officials, resulting in the arrests of four Evergreen students. Those students whose information was released were not immediately notified, which stirred the campus community, leaving the student body and faculty disappointed, unsettled, and fearful.

Faculty member Peter Bohmer stressed that the actions of Evergreen during these investigations were chilling. "In a very oppressive atmosphere, I think it is important for all of us to challenge this whole attack on people's civil liberties [because] anybody resisting racism, and issues with equality is being [under constant surveillance.]"

During the investigations after Valentine's Day this resolution was ignored, leaving students uninformed for up to 90 days after their information was released.

He referenced a resolution introduced during a 2002 conference for Evergreen faculty in response to the Privacy Act, where the Evergreen Administration resolved to support the students' right to privacy and notification of disclosure. During the investigations after Valentine's Day this resolution was ignored, leaving students uninformed for up to 90 days after their information was released.

Other staff members indicate that the administration was out of line for keeping their investigations clandestine. One member asked to be left anonymous to protect her position as an employee. In private, she recounted the oppressive environment during the sixties that kept her protesting and in constant fear due to the lack of community support. After Evergreen's unbridled cooperation with the police departments, this fear has been rekindled among students at Evergreen.

Laura Holden, a 2008 graduate, was shocked to hear that Evergreen cooperated so easily with law enforcement officials, but understood the school's legal responsibility after being subpoenaed to release this information. Legal responsibilities aside, Laura found Evergreen's choice to withhold this information from students unethical, frightening and unexpected.

This unexpected behavior is a part of the hypocrisy that senior Alex Kime attributes to his school. He describes Evergreen as a school that nurtures and teaches its students to think beyond the norms of society while governed by an administration that conforms to the very society that its students are learning to challenge.

The administration's decision to share private information left its student body and faculty feeling unsafe, but while Evergreen is an institution that pushes the boundaries of society from within its school walls, it is also an institution that answers to the demands of the outside world. How this school should respond to those demands is still in question. If those interviewed are representative, the community at large will remain unsettled until a compromise can be met.

▸ **REILLY** continued from page 1

is one of the natural wonders of the country. We haven't always thought about that or appreciated it, particularly because of the eyesore in the middle of it.

But there are few vistas like this anywhere. What's particularly unique about it is the framing, with Cooper Point to the West, Boston Harbor to the east, and Mount Washington and The Brothers 50 miles to the north. It is just a national treasure. Preserving the most important natural treasure of Olympia is, in the long run, very beneficial to the financial stability of the city. As we become more and more intensively developed throughout the country, these magnificent sites are becoming more rare and more valuable. It's not an accident that folks want to develop this particular site for expensive condominiums. The precise reason they want to develop this site is the reason why. Instead, it should be developed as a great public space.

Could you speculate about some of the possibilities for securing funding to make this park into a reality?

The basic concept is looking for a series of partnerships between the city, the state and private contributions. That's why we're in the process of setting up a nonprofit foundation that is capable of receiving gifts. We've already had offers of significant gifts, but we've had to say wait, we can't accept them yet, we're not completely set up yet. With respect to funding, there are four parts: local, state, federal and private. There have been numbers stated by some folks that this is not feasible because it's too expensive, and I've hear d people say it would cost $100 million. Where they come to that number, I have no idea, because if you look at the assessed value of the four parcels in question, right now they're worth about $15 million, that's the assessed value.

Then you would have the cost of clearing the property, and the cost of developing the property. But all of Heritage Park cost the State of Washington $16 million. The city paid for the fountain block, which was in the ballpark of a million dollars. Everything we've got to date cost around 17 million. Developing those additional areas on the isthmus doesn't look to me to be a $100 million proposition, but that's what this feasibility study is designed to determine.

Sometimes you have to re-do planning efforts because things have changed, and you need buy-in from new groups of people.

While you're considering doing a feasibility analysis, if you rezone, you immediately increase your costs, because there's high value in that rezone. So it's not logical to increase the ultimate cost of an option under feasibility review by changing the status of the land.

Do the former Planning Commissioners come at this issue from a different angle than other community opponents, due to their perspective as planners?

The genesis of the group was former planners, but we had forty people at our first meeting, so it's a much broader group at this point. It began when Jeff Jaksich called together some former planning commissioners who had concerns about the rezone. We wrote the op-ed for *The Olympian* laying out reasons why it was not a good idea. Then we thought maybe we could be FOR something.

We have all seen the debate about the height limits happen several times. A lot of us have intuitively felt that the highest and best public use for that area was a great public space, but we hadn't organized to start the process to have that seriously considered. So we thought we should see if the public was in favor of a different vision for the area, and that would eventually include people saying they would be willing to pay more in property taxes to help support this effort, and we think people ought to be given that option, rather than just assuming they won't. Some of us think they will. You get the cost down as low as possible by enlisting partners. Most of those original six commissioners are active in the foundation, but now many more people are involved. We hope to eventually have a foundation with a governing board, but a membership was well, including people from all around the state.

Do you think your status as a former Planning Commissioner, and the status of other members of the group as former planners shaped your perspectives, so that you might see the issue in a different way from other groups that oppose the rezone?

I don't know, I just know about my own perspective. I don't have concerns about development per se, I just think it needs to be in the right place and on the right scale. I think it would be a good thing for Olympia to have what they call market-rate housing in the right place in the downtown area. I think it's important we have a sufficient number of subsidized housing units as well.

Preserving the most important natural treasure of Olympia is, in the long run, very beneficial to the financial stability of the city.

There are many sites that are preferable to this one in terms of balancing the needs of the whole community. A number of us think that the vision being offered by Olympia 20/20 Vision needs also to be taken seriously. This would mean taking a real comprehensive look at the whole downtown, involving the public at large. Skeptics say "we've done this before," but we haven't done it with this group of individuals. Sometimes you have to re-do planning efforts because things have changed, and you need buy-in from new groups of people.

The other thing people tell you is that this is an impossible dream. But in 1983, Heritage Park was an impossible dream. In 1955, Watershed Park was an impossible dream. In the 1980s, the wonderful Farmers Market was an impossible dream. I remember when the Farmers Market was just a few tables down on Plum Street.

Registered voters in the city of Olympia can help make the dream of an isthmus park a reality by signing the initiative. Volunteers will have initiative petitions available for signature at the Farmers Market (near the ATM machine) on the following dates:

Friday, August 29, 10 am–3 pm
Saturday, September 6, 10 am–3 pm
Sunday, September 7, 10 am–3 pm
Saturday, September 13, 10 am–3 pm
Sunday, September 14, 10 am–3 pm
and at Harbor Days on Sunday, August 31 from 5 to 7 pm

The petition is also available online at www.olycapitolpark.org

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Local activists challenge democracy's demise

by Molly Gibbs

Olympia activists are bringing together a remarkable cadre of experts to address the demise of democracy and rise of corporate power, and the role of the military in our lives. We are responsible for what is being done with our tax dollars and our power. We are outraged.

This October, a can-do, positive series entitled **The Cost of War** allows us to explore in-depth the messages behind "Stop the War." We spell out, in detail, precisely why we are opposed to today's wars over oil, water, privatization, imperialism, international war crimes, multinational monopolies, mercenaries, torture, class and race.

So, what's happening in Oly? First, there is the **Iraqi Student Solidarity Committee**. This awesome small group of students took on the Evergreen State College administration—respectfully and effectively. It took them an entire school year, and the first Iraqi student begins at Evergreen in a few weeks. This effort required political and organizational savvy, legal research, and strategic planning. While other schools around the country are doing similar work, none are student initiated and driven. Andrea Robbins and Hudson Muñoz report ISSC has raised $10,000 to support two students' living expenses for one year.

"We (the ISSC) see this project as the responsibility of all citizens of the United States," Robbins said.

Restitution has begun in Olympia, thanks to these students.

A few Iraq Vets set out to launch a new **GI Coffee House**, due to open this fall, near Fort Lewis which serves 25,000 men and women. Seth Manzel reports that a local coffee roaster donated the equipment, furniture and supplies to open the doors. The vets are excited because the business has three primary aspects: a GI radio show, which reaches soldiers around the world; GI Voice, the website at ***givoice.org***; and the coffee house. The latter serves as a quiet place for soldiers and their families to seek all kinds of services: PTSD and marital counseling, disability counseling and help with completing forms; GI rights, DU information and more. Speakers and concerts will be featured regularly. The onsite library includes books, articles and DVDs.

"By giving soldiers an opportunity connect with other soldiers in safe space, we will greatly increase the number of soldiers aware of their rights and obligations, and the help that is available to them if they cannot, or choose not to, participate in war. By supporting this project, we are taking action to end the occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. I will personally raise $1,000 from my friends and family to support this coffee house, and challenge others to call on your resources to support soldiers and this project," wrote Alex Bacon of the Board Chair of Seattle Draft & Military Counseling Center and G.I. Rights Network Advisory Committee Member.

If you can help us raise $30,000, go to *http://givoice.org* and click on the DONATION button. Tax deductions for checks are available, with mailing address online.

Other October events:

Oct. 3: South Puget Sound Community College (BRICK) brings **Greg Palast** to speak on elections, past and present.

Volunteers working with the **Washington Public Campaigns** (WPC) Thurston County chapter have drafted a proposal for a Voter-Owned Elections program in Olympia. The proposal includes draft language for a proposed ordinance, along with explanatory material. See documents and meeting information at Thurston@washclean.org.

Oct. 12: Following major protests over the Occupation of Iraq, Wayne Smith from the Unitarian Universalist Civil Liberties Program, is the featured speaker on the **Cost of Iraq**. Smith, a Vietnam veteran, will address reparations, and his experience receiving a Nobel Peace prize, along with Vietnamese soldiers, who bicycled 1200 miles with US soldiers on a reconciliation journey from Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City. He will focus on what we can do to stop funding wars, and will meet with local activists.

Military recruiters try to simulate a sand wall, that you, uh, climb...in parking lots—you know, war conditions. (Photo by Janet Blanding)

Oct. 17–19: The Rachel Corrie Foundation presents the **Peace Works Conference**, this year focusing on the occupations in Palestine and Iraq. Speakers include Dahlia Wasfi, Iraqi American activist, who lived in Saddam Hussein's Iraq; Phyllis Bennis, author and committed scholar-activist, with the Institute of Foreign Policy and journalist specializing in the Middle East; and Colonel Ann Wright, well-known retired military and diplomat.

"These three women along with other speakers will be leading workshops, panels, and trainings that will promote positive relationships, education, and the sharing of new ideas to end occupation. Check for speaker and sponsor updates at www.rachelcorriefoundation.org," wrote Rebecca Pilcher, Community Outreach Chair of the Peace Works Conference.

Oct 20: **Antonia Juhasz** will brilliantly summarize the **Tyranny of Oil**, and outline what we must do to stop Big Oil.

"Juhasz identifies and articulates an extraordinary problem, provides the critical details, offers real solutions, and gives concrete steps to achieve them. In a world that glorifies war and violence, Juhasz offers thoughtfulness and activism." wrote Professor Jody Williams, 1997 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and Ambassador for the International Campaign to Ban Landmines.

Tickets sold for $10 will benefit the GI Coffee House.

Oct 24: The Iraq Student Solidarity Committee convenes an intimate fundraising dinner in support of 2009 displaced Iraqi students who need our support.

Olympians go to "Gitmo on the Platte"

Local activists Jeff Berryhill, Shyam Khanna, Wally Cuddeford and Lillia Lassiter were arrested in a sweep during the first day of the DNC protests in Denver. They were among 100 people falsely arrested after Denver police swept up protesters at the anti-capitalist/anti-imperialist Everything for Everyone demonstration on Monday, August 25th. Riot police used chemical weapons, crowd division and mass false arrest as tactics to put an end to the demonstration. At arraignments the next day all four pled not guilty. Bail was quickly raised for all by Tuesday night. Shyam and Jeff were expected to be released Tuesday evening, Wally and Lilia by Wednesday afternoon. Denver courts are insisting those arrested leave Denver or risk being arrested a second time and face exorbitant bonds and jail time.

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▸ **REFLECTIONS** continued from page 3

emotional and physical consequences of killing. When the troops return, they come ahead of the equipment. It is after memorials and welcome home ceremonies are held that the war machinery returns, sometimes damaged and carrying the memory of those who died with it.

Thirty-seven enlisted soldiers died with this brigade's deployment, as of Aug. 19. *Antiwar.com* reported 4,146 US enlisted have died in the five years the occupation has gone on. They estimate over 100,000 US wounded. Given debilitating post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), the number is likely much higher. The number of Iraqis who have been killed since the beginning of the US invasion or Iraq is conservatively estimated to be over 1.25 million and many more than that number have been displaced as land, resources, communities, and families are destroyed in the continuing occupation.

When peaceful resisters protested the deployment of the 4th/2nd Stryker Combat Brigade in March 2007 at the Port of Tacoma, they met with extreme examples of police violence involving illegal use of chemical weapons, less-than-lethal weapons, physical force, arrest without cause, and one injudicious judge who must have been educated at the Hoffman-Sabo School of Law. Illegal use of force has become the standard for rogue police departments, yet as civil suits mount and the anti-war movement grows through a diverse coalition of veteran, community and student activists, hope remains for a growing civil resistance.

Compared to the protests in March 2007, where we saw great numbers but lacked the relationships of trust needed to make cohesive decisions as a large group, I considered the actions in Tacoma this August very successful. I saw a solid coalition of people working strategically well together despite differences in life experience, political and social ideals. The meeting I attended which led to the action I participated in was facilitated to ensure inclusion in decision making as well as cohesion in our action plan. Despite fewer numbers, because of this cohesion (and amazing facilitation) the action itself, near Fort Lewis and involving a three person lock down to block a flat bed carrying a Stryker combat vehicle—was successful. It would not have been successful if not for all who took part in supportive roles, or for all we as a larger community of activists have struggled through in these years of resistance.

One thing we witnessed this August was very obvious disinformation that was intended to create discord and distrust within the group. Because this particular disinformation was so obvious, as a whole, the group didn't buy into it, they didn't allow the divisions, which others played on, to tear us apart. I would hope that we will continue to do the work that is necessary so that we can continue to build a strong movement of resistance. This means dealing openly with those issues that can divide us.

It means working on issues of racism, classism, sexism, ageism and ableism; it means strengthening the weaknesses between the GI / Veteran and civilian anti-war movements, between student and community activists; between anarchists, radical non-violent resisters and pacifists; between autonomists, communists, socialists and reformists. I wouldn't expect or want us to agree on our political and social ideals, but it is possible for us to agree on an action plan and take direct action to resist effectively together. I hope this coalition can grow still broader to the realization of a large regional movement that is willing to take direct action in resisting many aspects of US war and imperialism.

> Protest is not simply a constitutional right, but an obligation.

Once I was able to hear Bobby Seale speak about how he felt the government, through COINTELPRO, came down on the Black Panther Party not because the party picked up the gun for self-defense, but because they were building serious coalition (with AIM, with poor whites, with the Latino/a community, with students, with the old and the young). He believed it wasn't the guns but the coalition that they were afraid of. They certainly seem to be putting a lot of energy into stopping ours. If we buy into the divisiveness, they might win.

The other thing those who oppose us seem to be doing is targeting those most vulnerable to inequality in choosing who to prosecute, following an action that leads to arrests. Prosecutors in Tacoma and Olympia have been selectively prosecuting women and men of color. Following the November,2007 port militarization resistance actions in Olympia, seven individuals of 66 arrests were selected for prosecution – all seven were women or men of color. Following the August, 2008 port militarization resistance actions in Tacoma, of 11 individuals who were arrested while taking part in direct action to block the movement of war machinery, not one single male bodied person was selected for prosecution. These 11 arrests were divided into four different action groups; three of the four action groups included male bodied people in their numbers. Though all took part in the same action, only the women in those action groups are being prosecuted.

On Thursday, July 31, two women were arrested at the Port of Tacoma after running in the direction of a convoy of Stryker vehicles with others. The women were physically assaulted by police and placed under arrest. As explained in a press release by the action group, one of those arrested was pulled across a "police line by her hair, slammed to the ground, lifted up in a head lock then slammed down again. Police then kneeled on her back. This all happened while she loudly repeated "I'm not resisting arrest."

On Friday night, August 1, three people were arrested after they effectively blocked a convoy of military equipment on Freedom Bridge at exit 122 leading to Ft. Lewis. This was the first successful block; that it happened at Freedom Bridge, was inspiring and gave us reason to celebrate. Later that night, a second action succeeded in blocking war machinery returning to Fort Lewis at a bridge near exit 123. Another three people were arrested, though more took part in the action and provided support. Saturday night, August 2nd, a third successful action took place involving a three person lockdown at the Exit 120 off ramp leading to the main gate at Fort Lewis. All three who took part in the lockdown were arrested.

In addition to the 11 arrests related to direct actions resisting the movement of war machinery, from which seven women are being prosecuted, there were four other arrests in Tacoma. The arrests were made in order to confiscate property or otherwise punish individuals who served to support the resistance in different roles.

General harassment of protesters began with numerous illegal detainments at the Port of Tacoma in the early days of action. One of those detainments led to the arrest of a National Lawyers Guild attorney after he exercised his rights under law to not provide his papers (ID) to police while present at the Port of Tacoma. This lawyer has worked to defend a number of people within the activist community, including those active in port militarization resistance.

On Sunday, August 3 near Fort Lewis—at a separately organized event corresponding to the National Day of Action against the War with Iran – an organizer who provided his home to coordinate jail and legal support for those arrested in Tacoma was arrested himself on charges of littering and obstruction. He was merely dropping off signs and a papier-mâché head of George Bush Jr. to be used at the rally.

On Sunday, August 3, a man—who was consistently present during this resistance, and who had been peacefully protesting within a designated "free speech zone" at the port—was Tasered by a cop through the window of his patrol car. The shooting victim was taken to a hospital emergency room, brought to the jail for booking and soon released. The illegal use of force by the Tacoma Police Department, and ungrounded arrest that followed, apparently led the prosecuting office to file no charges against the shooting victim.

On Monday August 4, a videographer, who had filmed many of the actions during the week, was specifically targeted at a Port action focused on preventing war machinery from leaving the quay near the Port entrance. He was arrested on charges of trespass, his camera and film confiscated by the police. A judge later ruled that the camera should be returned, though the authorities were allowed to keep the film "as evidence" (or for the purpose of surveillance).

Those calling the shots intend to undermine the movement by targeting specific individuals who play a supportive role, or who directly resist. By targeting women and people of color for prosecution they hope to discourage participation in resistance movements by others who are most oppressed by inequality in our society. If those taking the risk to resist are supported and are able to stay strong throughout the legal process in bringing the criminal nature of this war to trial, then the movement stays strong. Please consider donating to the legal defense fund and helping those who are being selectively prosecuted with their legal costs. Our activist community is unique; many who are being selectively prosecuted are low-income and must turn to the greater community for support.

You can help by sending a donation made payable to the Port of Olympia Legal Defense Fund or "POLDF", and mail to Legal Defense, P.O. Box 295 Olympia, WA 98502. The money will go directly to those who need the help for legal defense in these cases. Several benefit shows are also being scheduled to raise legal defense monies. Mark your calendar for "Poetry from the People of the Port", Friday, September 19, 7-9 PM at Last Word Books. A concert benefit will be held with some of the area's finest musicians on Friday, October 24, 7-10 PM at Tradtions. Updates can be found at *olypmr.org* .

"AMERICAN GANDHI" RETURNS FROM INDIA

by Daisy Ouye

Bernie Meyer portrays Gandhi to audiences the world over. First called the "American Gandhi" in 2005 by media in India, he stood up to their scrutiny. In traditional dhoti as the father of their country, he was relieved to receive their endorsement. Not only did they approve of Bernie's interpretation of Gandhi's teachings as applied to today's world, they seemed to understand the value, if not the necessity, of an "American Gandhi."

Bernie's work as Gandhi began with portrayals, but it didn't end there. Attending his second Round Table Conference at the World Peace Centre on August 1 and 2, Bernie spoke along with other learned and honorable guests from across the globe on the subjects of science and spirituality in promotion of a culture of peace. Bernie called the convergence of the two "of critical importance to the world today." Decades of experience as a nonviolent activist combined with intense study have informed his view. His message is an urgent one.

Now back in Olympia, he described to me (as he did to a full auditorium of scholars, students and spiritual leaders in India) that humanity is at a crossroads because of the effects of man's own scientific inventiveness. Life destructive weapons and industrial "inventiveness" (as he diplomatically puts it), truly threaten all life on earth.

He went on to describe the simple reality that whoever has the technological advantages, "wins" in war. With so-called advantages like nuclear and chemical weaponry in World War II, Agent Orange in Vietnam, and Radioactive DU weaponry used by the US today, people continue to suffer, as the wars go on. Bernie calls these methods "dysfunctional" and a waste of resources.

There were a lot of viewpoints expressed at the conference. "Everyone comes from their own enlightenment. Some focused on the epitome of human development, meditation, body and mind in sync." While Bernie says personal development is fundamental; with industry and weaponry that threaten global destruction, along with global warming and depleting resources of water and fossil fuel, we must do more.

If we are to build a culture of peace, one that cares about poverty, disease and hunger, we need to put Gandhi's words to action. To "be the change we want to see in the world" is more than an internal effort.

Join the American Gandhi for "A Courageous Conversation" on Oct. 13 at Traditions Fair Trade Cafe. You can also learn more about Bernie, his new book, and his upcoming events and travel: *oly-wa.us/berniemeyer* or *theamercangandhi.blogspot.com*

Bernie Sanders, pictured in the front row, fourth from right, in India. Photo provided by Sanders.